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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Letter dated 24 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 21 May 1991 regarding the decision of the Israeli Government to expel four Palestinians.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 23 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed Noman GALAL
Minister Plenipotentiary

Annex

Statement of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 21 May 1991 concerning the decision of the Israeli Government to expel four Palestinians

Following the recent decision of the Israeli Government to expel four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, an official source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated that this was a flagrant violation of all international agreements pertaining to the protection of civilians in the occupied territories and in particular the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

The Ministry expressed Egypt's rejection of this decision, which in no way contributed to strengthening the peaceful course in favour of which concerted international efforts were currently being made in order to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem, which was the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Ministry urged the Israeli Government to cease using such oppressive measures and instead to move towards building confidence with the Palestinian people, which had suffered greatly under the occupation. At the same time, the Ministry appealed to the international community to reaffirm its unanimous position with regard to protecting Palestinian rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, guaranteeing the exercise of their right to live in peace on their land and property, and restoring their inalienable rights within the framework of a peaceful, just and durable settlement.